

stood by every other State, every other region in the country when they have had disasters come to their doorsteps.

Another concern my colleagues have brought up is this issue of what portion of the bill is for future prevention. We call it mitigation. The reality is, if you are going to rebuild a subway such as this, and you don't do it in a way that protects against flooding the next time, then you are wasting your money. Mitigation is attached to each and every project it is going to be used for, so when we fix the tunnel, when we fix the subway, when we fix any part of our city, it will be done in a way that is smart and not blind to future risks.

Some have also asked the question about Army Corps of Engineers projects. For those who are not familiar with Washington speak, the Army Corps of Engineers funds a lot of projects related to our coastal shorelines or to any kind of waterway. They do the engineering required and then the work that has to be done to make sure a beach isn't vulnerable after a massive storm, such as the ones we have seen. Because of Sandy, much of the Army Corps's infrastructure that provided this critical protection was washed away or significantly damaged, leaving a lot of our shoreline exposed. So even if a minor storm hits, lives will be at risk.

When we look at the history of Hurricane Katrina, Congress and the Bush administration immediately provided the Army Corps with \$3.3 billion for repair and mitigation with no offsets. Even funds appropriated in 2008 for the gulf coast hurricanes, 3 years after the storms hit, were designated as disaster and emergency funding. In fact, since 1989, Congress has passed 36 emergency appropriations for disasters without any specifically dedicated outside offsets.

It has been 50 days since Superstorm Sandy hit our shores. We need to act swiftly. When Hurricane Katrina battered the gulf coast, the Members of this body and the House united. We passed two emergency spending relief bills worth \$60 billion within 10 days. Congress did the same for Hurricane Andrew, and within weeks of the Twin Towers falling on 9/11. I know the Members of this body can come together. When disaster strikes, we always find a way to do the right thing. It is time to do the same today.

It is the fundamental role of government to protect people, to help rebuild communities when disaster strikes. When so many lives have been destroyed and so many communities lie in rubble, when businesses don't know how to begin to rebuild, that is when we have to stand strong and we have to come together.

No doubt we have serious challenges ahead of us, but none of us was sent here to Congress to do what is easy. We serve to do what is right, especially when it is hard, especially when families are counting on us. So I ask my colleagues to find good will, to open

their hearts and stand by those families who have suffered so much in the Northeast.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise, as so many of my colleagues have, to mourn and pay tribute to Senator DANIEL INOUE of Hawaii.

He was a giant of the Senate. He was an individual whose courage, whose compassion, and whose commitment to this country has never been exceeded by anyone who served here—indeed, by any American I can think of.

A few years ago, I was asked to introduce the Senator at an event. I wrote down some points on a card that I kept on my desk, and will forever keep on my desk:

Second Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye, E Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, San Terenzo, Italy, April 21, 1945.

That was the day he was wounded leading his platoon against an enemy pillbox, the day for which he would be ultimately awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

Then I have another date: May 8, 1945. That was VE Day, the end of the war. Seventeen days before the end of the war, when Berlin was encircled and collapsing, when American forces were rushing and the end was clear, and indeed every soldier recognized that the war was coming to an end, Senator INOUE didn't stop serving, didn't stop sacrificing, didn't stop giving his all to protect his soldiers and accomplish his mission. Indeed, that spirit of never giving up, of never failing to do his duty, animated his service in the Senate, animated his service to this country, and to the State of Hawaii.

At the time I gave these remarks, he was 1 of 90 living holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Today we mourn his passing, his contributions to Hawaii, his contributions to this Senate which he held in the highest esteem and which he personified so grandly.

I think one of the factors that led him to a career in public service and led him to such distinguished service was the recognition—not theoretically but practically—that despite his great suffering and sacrifice, he was lucky because there were many other young men and women who perished in that war and in subsequent wars; that he had sacrificed much but had not given his life, although he very nearly gave his life.

At the outset of the war, the Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish, wrote:

They say, We were young. We have died. Remember us.

They say, We have done what we could but until it is finished it is not done.

They say, We have given our lives but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave.

They say, Our deaths are not ours; they are yours: they will mean what you make them.

They say, Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say: it is you who must say this.

In everything DAN INOUE did, he spoke for those soldiers. He gave their lives meaning by his selfless service and sacrifice to this Nation. He gave it every day by making this place—this country—live up to its highest ideals, a place of opportunity for all, a place of fairness and decency. He did it as few did.

So those voices that were stilled in 1945, and in the Korean War and in the war in Vietnam and subsequent wars, always had a voice here; and it wasn't just words, it was actions. His life gave meaning, and that might be one of the highest achievements anyone can reach in this life.

We all know his extraordinary service in so many different ways. We know also, in one of the great coincidences, three young men were in an Army hospital in Michigan: DAN INOUE, Phil Hart, and Bob Dole, American heroes; and that later they would come to this Senate and serve with distinction. I think it was particularly meaningful that just a few days ago Senator Robert Dole—another great American—was on the floor of this Senate, still serving, still emblematic of the “greatest generation.”

We will miss Senator INOUE. There are few words and not enough eloquence to describe the loss. I, too, particularly want to thank and extend my condolences to his wife Irene, to his son Ken, to his daughter-in-law Jessica, to his granddaughter Maggie, and to his stepdaughter Jennifer Hirano. They have lost more than any of us because they have lost a husband, a father, and a grandfather.

Let me just conclude with the words uttered centuries ago by Thucydides:

The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.

DAN INOUE knew the dangers. DAN INOUE knew that the glory was fleeting, and in fact combat wasn't particularly glorious at all. But he knew it was honorable to serve. He knew it was honorable to sacrifice for his soldiers and for his comrades. He knew it was honorable and decent to serve his State and his Nation, and he never failed to go forth to meet the challenges of his time.

Now it is our time. Now we must give words and meaning to the voices that have been stilled in the service to this Nation. One of those giants and one of those powerful voices was Senator DANIEL INOUE. The test will be whether we can measure up to what he did, and I hope for the sake of this country we can.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended to 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION ACT

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my Senate colleagues.

Yesterday, we passed a reauthorization of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act. That is very significant for my State of Louisiana, particularly southeast Louisiana. Today I expect that package will be similarly approved by the U.S. House and passed into law to fully reauthorize this important restoration program.

In a minute I will get into why it is important and positive and noteworthy. Let me mention in passing its significance to me. It happened to be the first bill I ever passed in Congress. I came to the U.S. House in a special election in 1999, and very soon after that we passed into law in my freshman term this legislation in 2001. More important, it has been a very positive, productive program cleaning up a big part of Louisiana and parts of Mississippi.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin is about 16 parishes in Louisiana, four counties in Mississippi and southeast Louisiana. Lake Pontchartrain and the areas surrounding Lake Pontchartrain are the most populated part of our State—at least 1.5 million residents.

When I was a kid, unfortunately Lake Pontchartrain had come into a sad state and was visibly dirty. Nobody would have thought of swimming there at the time. Soon after that, however, a positive grassroots effort started to clean up the lake. It wasn't some big government program, it wasn't some edict from the EPA or anyone else. It was a grassroots citizens effort. It was embodied by a great organization that was founded and still exists: the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. That nonprofit, private foundation, that group of active citizens and stakeholders got together around the need to clean up the lake and make it a suitable lake once again and clean up all the surrounding parishes in that watershed.

That effort had great success from when I was in high school for the next several decades. Then, as I was coming to the Congress, we wanted to take the next step and amplify those efforts. So with an enormous amount of input from that citizens group and other local stakeholders, we came up with a

model, a completely voluntary, proactive cleanup effort housed in the EPA focused exclusively on the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. That is when we acted, 1999 and 2000, and passed that legislation in 2001.

It has had an enormously positive impact. It created a real partnership—again, built from the ground up, from local stakeholders, from that local group of civic activists—and it generated restoration efforts, similar statuses, and other important restoration efforts around the country, and over the last many years it has had real impact.

As Carlton Dufrechou, then head of the Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Executive Committee, said:

It's been the catalyst for over 100 projects that have reduced pollution from sewage plants, dairy operations, and helped preserve Louisiana's fragile coast. And the results are quantifiable. Lake Pontchartrain is again fishable and swimmable.

That is really the ultimate test. That is the ultimate measure, when citizens can go out and swim in the lake as they can now; when they can go out and actively fish in the lake in a way they never did to that extent a decade and two decades ago. That is the ultimate validation. That is the ultimate measure.

We did reauthorize the program in 2006. Now, in 2012, we are reauthorizing it, basing it on the same continuing model, a from-the-ground-up enterprise, a proactive voluntary effort; not some Washington bureaucrat throwing a huge cumbersome rule book at local stakeholders but building from the ground up through voluntary proactive restoration efforts, getting those stakeholders together, the people who know the lay of the land the best, and acting based on their priorities and their recommendations.

That was the model from the beginning. That was the model before this legislation, with the grassroots effort that preceded it and that continues. That is the model we will continue to use. I hope, in some small way, that can be the model we use more and more actively in environmental cleanup around the country. Certainly, that is the positive perspective I will bring as the new ranking Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee.

So I again thank my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—for passing this reauthorization. It is important and productive and positive and will continue to be on the ground in southeast Louisiana.

I very much look forward to that reauthorization passing the U.S. House and being signed into law so that those activists and stakeholders and citizens on the ground in southeast Louisiana can help lead that important continuing work.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DANIEL K. INOUE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise for a few moments to share a few thoughts about our friend and colleague who passed away yesterday, Senator DAN INOUE. It was a shock to me here on the floor yesterday when his passing was announced and it is still a shock today to see that it is indeed real—the beautiful bowl of white roses on his desk.

I want to share a remembrance or two. When I was 19 I was struggling with what direction to take in life and thought public policy might be something worth pursuing. I asked my father. My father read the newspaper every day and watched the evening news and would run a commentary on the world. I asked him, if I were to try to get a summer internship in Washington, DC, to see how government really works, who should I apply to. Of course he noted I should apply to my home State Senators, Senator Packwood and Senator Hatfield. I asked him if there were any national Senators who stood out. He said there are four I think you should try to talk to: Senator Kennedy, Senator Humphrey, Senator Church, and Senator INOUE.

I proceeded to write letters to see if I could get an internship with any of my home State Senators or any of those four. I did not succeed outside my State. I did get an internship with Senator Hatfield, which changed the course of my life. But when I was elected to the Senate, Senator Hatfield asked me to bring greetings to his old colleagues, those who served with him, particularly Senator INOUE, because Senator Hatfield had chaired Appropriations and Senator INOUE was chairing Appropriations. That was a tremendous introduction because it led to one of my first conversations with Senator DAN INOUE when I came to the Senate. He showed me his spectacular view down The Mall, looking toward the Washington Monument, and said anytime you want to come and use the balcony you should come and use it. It is one of the best places in Washington.

We shared the joy he took in just the beauty of that space. We shared stories about the old days, the days when Senator Hatfield and Senator INOUE worked together on appropriations. We also had a chance to talk about some of the challenges that have occurred in the committee. In recent times, we discussed how much harder it is to get appropriations bills to the floor and have them considered in a bipartisan nature.

I indicated to Senator INOUE at that time how interested I was in serving on the Appropriations Committee and how